

The  
**BOISE**



October 2022

**FRONT**

*The official newsletter of the Boise VA Medical Center*

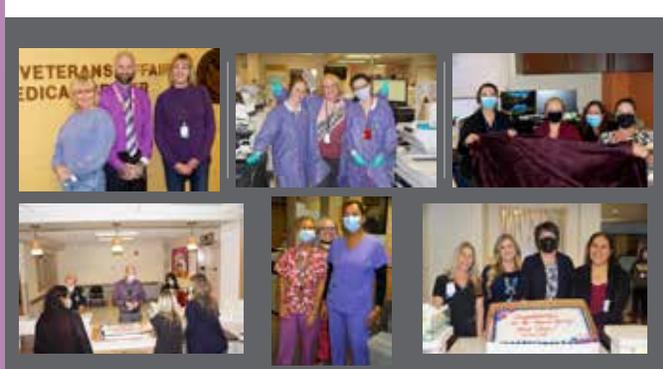
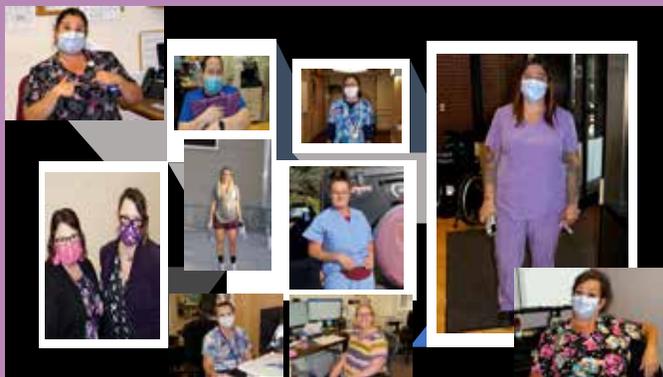
**“AROUND AND AROUND THE HOUSE THE LEAVES FALL THICK, BUT NEVER FAST, FOR THEY COME CIRCLING DOWN WITH A DEAD LIGHTNESS THAT IS SOMBER AND SLOW.”**

**- CHARLES DICKEN.**



Photo courtesy of Chief Caffey  
...and no, you are not allowed to hunt on VA grounds. :)

# OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH





**VA**

Boise VA  
Medical Center

VA  
Caregiver  
Support

*JOIN US*

**NOVEMBER  
14 & 15  
BOISE VAMC  
MAIN ENTRANCE  
BLDG. 85A**



***November is Caregiver Support Month!***

*The mission of the Caregiver Support Program is to promote the health and well-being of family caregiver's who care for our nation's Veterans through education, resources, support and services.*

Please come and join us for a day of fun and relaxation designed with you in mind!

Caregiver Support Staff will be present to answer any questions. Treats and music will be provided!

For questions please call the Boise VA Caregiver Support Program  
Chris Tucker at (208) 422-1000 ext. 7364 or Kelly Corley at (208) 422-4346

**SATURDAY MARCH 11**  
**2023**



**DISABLED VETERANS**  
**SNOWMOBILE RIDE**

DISABLED VETERANS WHO ARE RATED 30% DISABLED OR MORE ARE INVITED ON AN ALL-EXPENSE PAID SNOWMOBILE RIDE IN MCCALL, IDAHO. RIDE WILL INCLUDE PERSONAL RIDING COACH, LUNCH, & SNOWMOBILE. VETS WILL BE CHOSEN ON FIRST-COME BASIS. TO SIGN UP CALL JOSH AT THE BOISE VA BEFORE MARCH 11, 2023 AT (208) 422-1054.

# Stay Healthy to Enjoy the Fall & Holiday Season

## **Bivalent Moderna Boosters for Employees**

**Where:** At Employee Health in Building T-122

**When:** Every Wednesday 8AM – 12PM

**How:** Walk-ins welcome!



### **Who qualifies for a booster?**

- Received primary COVID Vaccines
- At least 2 months since last COVID vaccine
- All employees! (In the community, the vaccine is available for ages 5+)
- Even if you received Pfizer for your primary series, you can receive the Moderna booster

**Check out CDC for more information:** [Stay Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines Including Boosters | CDC](#)

**Need a COVID vaccine option near you?** Check out the locator at [www.vaccines.gov/search](http://www.vaccines.gov/search). If you are vaccinated off campus, please email an encrypted copy to [laura.carrico@va.gov](mailto:laura.carrico@va.gov).

### **Did you know Boise VA Employee Health offers other services too?**

You can receive other vaccines, employee-student physicals and blood titer tests as needed. Call ext. 7001 to schedule.





# GIVING BLOOD ISN'T SCARY

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION  
ABOUT BLOOD DRIVES AT THE BOISE  
VA IN NOVEMBER](#)



Save a life  
Give blood



# IDAHO VETERANS PARADE

DOWNTOWN BOISE, IDAHO

Jefferson & Bannock Streets between 4th & 8th Streets



10:00 AM SATURDAY  
NOVEMBER 5TH, 2022



[www.IdahoVeteransParade.org](http://www.IdahoVeteransParade.org)



 PROTECTION

 APPLICATION

 RECOVERY

# CYBER SECURITY

 INFORMATION

 NETWORK

[Click here](#) for  
the Emergency  
Preparedness Pointer  
on, "Cybersecurity"

 ACCESS CONTROL



# November Employee Whole Health Activities



*Want an Outlook invite to any of these events? Teams Jeanette Berry.*

## EMPLOYEE WHOLE HEALTH TAI CHI

When

**THURSDAYS**  
12:15 – 12:45 PM

~~~~~B.88 REHAB GYM  
(ORANGE/GOLD TEAM BUILDING  
ENTER FROM BACK PATIO)  
AND  
VIRTUALLY **ON TEAMS**

Hosted by Lydia Campbell-White, RN

**Take time to relax and reenergize your day!**

**Free for Boise VA employees**

No experience or equipment needed.

Try something new!

Sessions are recorded and shared on our  
**[Employee Whole Health SharePoint Site.](#)**



## Employee Whole Health **HEALTHY TEACHING KITCHEN (HTK) FALL SERIES**

**VIRTUALLY VIA TEAMS**  
AT 12 – 12:30 PM MT ON:

**WED. SEPTEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup>**

On The Go: Peanut Butter Energy Bars

**WED. OCTOBER 26<sup>TH</sup>**

How to Spice it Up: Ranch Seasoning Mix, and  
Homemade Pesto

**WED. NOVEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>**

Holiday Dessert with a Twist: Tiramisu Parfaits

**HOSTED BY MADISON KELLER, RD**

Sessions are recorded and recipes are placed on  
our **[Employee Whole Health SharePoint site!](#)**

Want an Outlook invite? Contact Jeanette Berry.

# HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

November 1st -31st  
Boise VA Medical Center

Donation Bins in Bldgs. 85, 114 & 54.

Examples Include:

Chunky soups, Chili, Canned Chicken & Tuna, Oatmeal, Canned fruit,  
Snacks, Peanut Butter, Mac & Cheese, Etc.

Call Volunteer Office for questions (208) 422-1175



# Employee Massage Chairs

Boise VA has massage chairs that are free for employees to use! Take some time for yourself.

These were brought to you by Employee Whole Health and Engagement.

## Located in:

- Chapel (B.67 by Police Services)
- LRC (B.29)
- B.85 in Room 302 (By Pre-Op)
- CLC B.121
- Logistics (Front office meeting room)
- Caldwell CBOC

## Please note:

Massage chairs have weight and height limits.

Please follow the rules listed by the massage chairs so we can continue to help as many employees as possible.



# SEPTEMBER

## GOOD CATCH AWARD

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Christine identified that Patiromer potassium binder was timed outside of dosing interval which could have resulted in interactions with other medications. Because of her vigilance, pharmacy was able to adjust how this medication is ordered and add language to ensure recommended scheduling is followed for this case. Additionally, within hours of this alert, two solutions were developed to prevent future risk including how the medication is ordered, processed, and timed as well as the addition of the comment, "please ensure admin time has a 3 hour window before and after other medications" to alert inpatient staff.



# BOISE is HIGHLY RELIABLE

## HRO PRINCIPLES & VALUES

THEME OF THE MONTH  
**Duty to Speak Up**

October 2022 | National Safety Poster

### Housekeeping Aide's Experience Leads to Process Improvement

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#### CONTEXT

During Environment of Care Rounds, Jason Brooks, a Housekeeping Aide at the Louis Stokes Cleveland VAMC, identified a potentially hazardous deterioration of pipes underneath a sink in a patient's room. Falling back on his previous experience as a plumber, he attributed the pipe discoloration to an acidic compound exposure.

A

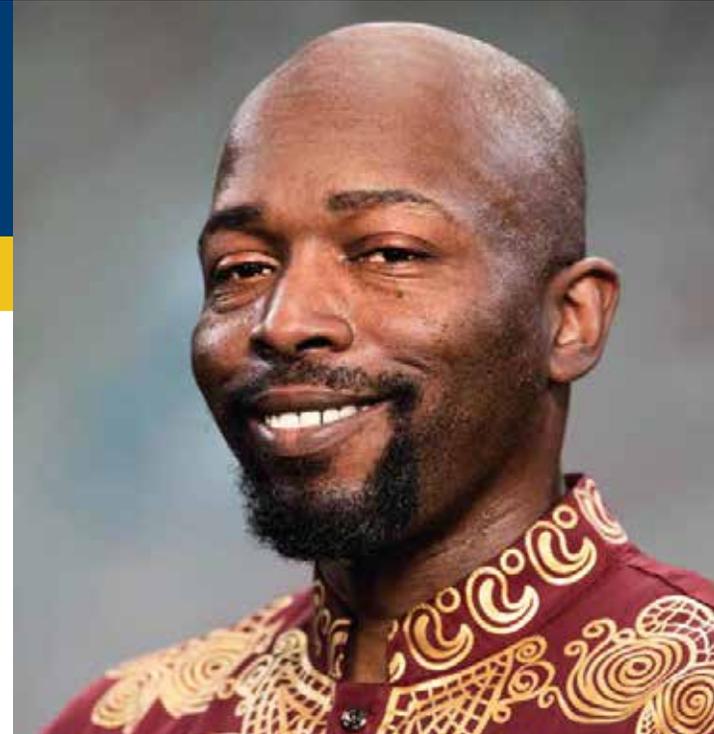
#### ACTION

The Dialysis Team and an Environmental Specialist investigated and confirmed Mr. Brooks' hypothesis. They determined that a citric acid dialysate concentrate—commonly used during dialysis—had been poured down the drains, causing the pipes to corrode.

R

#### RESULTS

As a result, the Dialysis Team implemented a new process for the disposal of the corrosive material, along with associated signage. Additionally, all staff members received training focused on the safe and proper handling and disposal of corrosive materials. Mr. Brooks exercised a Duty to Speak Up, leading to process improvements and a safer environment of care.



**"If you see something, you should do something."**

*Jason Brooks  
Housekeeping Aide  
Louis Stokes Cleveland VAMC  
Cleveland, Ohio*

VA



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

For more information, visit: [http://bit.ly/HighReliability\\_sp](http://bit.ly/HighReliability_sp)

VHA'S JOURNEY TO  
**HIGH  
RELIABILITY**

Your Care is Our Mission.

# EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH **SEPTEMBER**



**Keirsten Burnett**

Last week on 2MS one of our dementia patients was experiencing a change of condition, and it was confirmed that he was actively passing. While rounding on the unit, I walked by his room to see our Valor student, Keirsten, sitting next to his bed and gently rubbing his back and shoulders. This was probably the first time I had seen him calm as he had previously been visibly agitated and was calling out. This patient was not even under her care that day and she took the time to be with and comfort him. I feel that Keirsten displayed the ICARE value of Commitment as she spent her time ensuring this patient did not feel alone as he passed. Keirsten is the type of person who has a big heart for our veterans and we are blessed to have her on our unit as a student (and hopefully a future RN!).



# LEAVE NO VETERAN BEHIND THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

The Veteran  
Holiday Sponsorship Program is  
open for sponsors and for veteran  
nominations now through December 8.

The program is limited to 250 people.  
Gifts will be available for pickup or  
delivery the week of Christmas. If you  
would like to sponsor a veteran or  
nominate yourself or another veteran  
please contact:

Tammy at (208) 422-1175 or  
Jake at (208) 422-1176.

Completed forms can be dropped off  
at Voluntary Service or emailed to  
[boivoluntaryservice@va.gov](mailto:boivoluntaryservice@va.gov)

**Compliance Corner**  
**Summary of Hatch Act Provisions**

| Federal employees MAY:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Federal employees may NOT:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May be candidates in non-partisan elections.</li> <li>• May register and vote as they choose.</li> <li>• May assist in voter registration drives.</li> <li>• May contribute money to political campaigns, political parties, or partisan political groups.</li> <li>• May attend political rallies, meetings, and fundraisers.</li> <li>• May join and hold office in political clubs, parties, or partisan groups.</li> <li>• May sign and circulate nominating petitions.</li> <li>• May campaign for or against referendum questions, constitutional amendments, or municipal ordinances.</li> <li>• May campaign for or against candidates in partisan elections.</li> <li>• May make campaign speeches for candidates in partisan elections.</li> <li>• May volunteer to work on partisan political campaigns.</li> <li>• May express opinions about candidates and issues. If the expression is political activity, however – i.e., activity directed at the success or failure of a political party, candidate for partisan political office, or partisan political group – then the expression is not permitted while the employee is on duty, in any federal room or building, while wearing a uniform or official insignia, or using any federally owned or leased vehicle.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May not be candidates in partisan elections.</li> <li>• May not use official authority to interfere with an election. This includes:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use of official title or position while engaged in political activity.</li> <li>- Inviting subordinate employees to political events or suggesting they engage in political activity.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• May not knowingly solicit or discourage the political activity of any person with business pending before their employing office.</li> <li>• May not solicit, accept or receive a donation or contribution for a partisan political party, candidate for partisan political officer, or partisan group. For example, employees:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- May not host a political fundraiser.</li> <li>- May not invite others to a political fundraiser.</li> <li>- May not collect contributions or sell tickets.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• May not engage in political activity – i.e., activity directed at the success or failure of a political party, candidate for partisan political office, or partisan political group – while the employee is on duty, in any federal room or building, while wearing a uniform or official insignia, or using any federally owned or leased vehicle. For example:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- May not distribute campaign materials or items.</li> <li>- May not display campaign materials or items.</li> <li>- May not perform campaign related chores.</li> <li>- May not wear or display partisan political buttons, T-shirts, signs, or other items.</li> <li>- May not make political contributions to a partisan political party, candidate for partisan political office, or partisan political group.</li> <li>- May not post a comment to a blog or a social media site that advocates for or against a partisan political party, candidate for partisan political office, or partisan political group.</li> <li>- May not use any e-mail account or social media to distribute, send, or forward content that advocates for or against a partisan political party, candidate for partisan political office, or partisan political group.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

If you have questions about the Hatch Act, or other government ethics issues, you can contact the Boise VAMC Integrity and Compliance Officer at 208-422-1267. You may also contact OSC by email at [hatchact@osc.gov](mailto:hatchact@osc.gov).



# COMPLIANCE CORNER



**VA** | Boise VA Medical Center



# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## Shannon Hirsch

been a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution since 2003 and was recently the VAVS Representative in Idaho. I've served on the VAVS Executive Committee, IVAL Committee, Roundtable, and Joining Forces committees. I was very fortunate to have volunteered at the Boise VA as I have the utmost respect for those who have served our great country. I plan to continue to serve our Veterans here in the Pensacola area.

My most memorable time at the VA was visiting with those who were in Hospice, alongside my VAVS Representative predecessor, Helen Crewse. It is very important to me to be as supportive as possible especially with these Veterans. I've enjoyed assisting with the volunteer recognition event and with other campus activities. I was proud to be able to take my father to the VA for his health care needs; he was quite impressed with the service he received. And of course, I really enjoyed working with Tammy and Jake!

I am not a Veteran, but a Navy brat. My father was a pilot who served in both the Viet Nam and Korean wars.

I was born in Rota, Spain while my father was stationed there and I am the fourth of five children. We moved to Falls Church, Virginia for seven years while my father flew his missions out of Dulles International Airport. Our family moved to Scottsdale, Arizona in 1972 and I met my husband, Mark (an Air Force fledgling) there in 1986. Mark's father was a decorated Air Force pilot (one kill during Viet Nam) who served in the Triple Nickel Squadron

under Robin Olds. My husband Mark and I have been married for 34 years. We have previously lived in San Diego, CA, Tumwater and Lakewood, WA, Boise, ID and Colorado Springs, CO. We now live in Pensacola, Florida with my little sister Kerry, after having been granted guardianship over her.

I have an Associate's degree in Construction Drafting Technology, Certification in Construction Management, and a Bachelor's degree in Business Management. I have been a public servant since I joined the work force in 1988, mostly in the Engineering discipline and Information

Technology support. I have held positions as a Facilities Manager, Project Scheduling Engineer, Project Manager, Database Administrator, and most recently as a Project Coordinator.

In my spare time, I enjoy sewing, gardening, canning, and home improvement including electrical, plumbing, painting, dry walling, and playing with our adorable Beagle rescue dog, Ellie. I also enjoy spending quality time with my little sister at the beach!

I have a passion for giving back to my community. I served my church for eight years teaching religious education to first graders. I have

# Boise VAMC Ethics Consultation Service



In health care, patients and families often face the difficult question of “what should be done?” The best choice for one patient may be the wrong choice for another.

The Boise Ethics Consultation Service is made up of Boise VAMC Health Care professionals and strives to improve health care quality by helping staff members, patients, and families resolve ethical concerns.

The Ethics Consultation Service is available to respond to healthcare ethics questions, or to requests for general information, policy clarification, document review, discussion of hypothetical cases or historical cases and ethical analysis of organizational ethical questions. Examples of situations that are appropriate for ethics consultation include (but are not limited to):

- End of life decisions
- Shared decision making with patients (i.e., when decision makers disagree)
- Difficult decisions associated with patient care
- Problems related to consent and capacity
- Professionalism in patient care
- Clarification of health care ethics policy

## The Boise VAMC Ethics Consultation Service Team:

- Chaplain David Reid, Ethics Consult Coordinator
- Debbie Reinhart, Ethics Program Officer

### Boise VAMC Ethics Consultants:

- Dr. Charles Davis, Physician
- Ellen Jones, Nurse
- David Hammond, Patient Advocate
- Stephanie Seabolt, Nurse
- Dr. Warren Harbison, Physician
- Sara Webster, Social Worker

## To Request an Ethics Consult:

1. Submit an ethics consultation request through CPRS, or
2. Email the Ethics Consultation Service Team at [BOIEthicsConsult@va.gov](mailto:BOIEthicsConsult@va.gov) or,
3. Call 208-422-1100 between 0800-1630 M-F.

When you submit an ethics question the consultation team will review and gather additional information, determine what experts may need to be involved, identify possible options, make recommendations and follow-up with you at the end of the process.

# EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH **SEPTEMBER**

I would like to nominate MSA Jodi Scanlon for employee of the month.

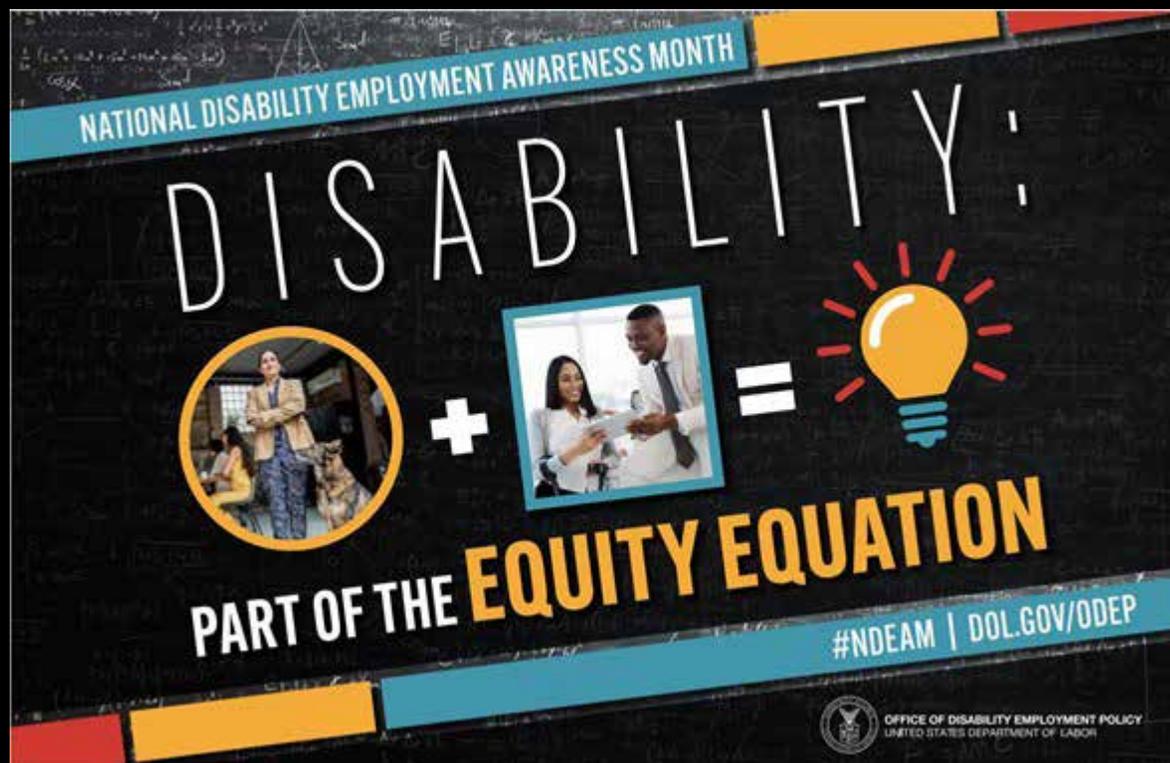
The circumstances in her area of work are critical, as the front office staff has been at 50% staffing for Blue Team since January, and with all of the demands the staff have endured with Cerner, provider shortages and clinical staff shortages, this is a difficult situation to manage, much less thrive in. Jodi has been a superstar keeping Blue Team together.

Regardless of her circumstance, Jodi has shown exceptional dedication to our VA ICARE values. I received a letter from a patient family to demonstrate her dedication to serving our Veterans with excellence, and commitment to these values, please see the letter below, I am so proud of Jodi and appreciate her dedication to our Veterans.

*I wanted to send this email thanking Jodi Scanlon (MSA) for her role in helping me coordinate care for my father, Alan Turner, who sadly passed away August 19th. My father was diagnosed with metastatic bladder cancer on August 2nd. He was a combat Vietnam Veteran and the foundation of our family. His diagnosis was unexpected and his illness was quickly taking his life. I was panicking trying to coordinate care for him while trying to also navigate feelings of grief and total devastation. My father was assigned to the Blue Team and Jodi was an absolute super star. Among all the people at the VA who helped me make my dad's last days more comfortable, Jodi's care, empathy, and kindness stood out as exceptional. I'm truly thankful for what she did for me and my family. She is truly an asset to our facility and her customer service skills are outstanding. Our Veterans deserve more employees like Jodi!*



**Jodi Scanlon**



## Commemoration from the Office of Resolution Management, Diversity & Inclusion (ORMDI)

National Disability Employment Awareness Month

VA joins the Nation in commemorating National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) this October. In recognition of the importance of persons with disabilities (PWD) within a diverse and inclusive American and Federal workforce, the 2022 theme announced by the Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy ([DOL ODEP](https://www.dol.gov/odep)) is "Disability: Part of the Equity Equation."

To conscientiously attain equity for PWD and persons with targeted disabilities (PWTD) and in alignment with Executive Order 14035 on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in the Federal Workforce, we each have a responsibility to integrate our ideas, words and actions toward inclusivity. An appreciation of the added value of diversity and unique perspective is first necessary to ensure that our actions complement VA's goal to exceed the current state of the agency.

As of August 2022, 48,200 (11.75%) of VA's permanent workforce have reportable disabilities and 9,471 (2.31%) have targeted disabilities. Additionally, of the 118,236 Veterans within the VA's permanent workforce, 55,026 (46.5%) are Disabled Veterans.

Inclusion of everyone's diverse abilities strengthens innovation and is integral to VA mission success! For more information, visit [VA's Individuals with Disabilities Employment Program](#) web page or contact Mr. Roberto Rojo, VA's National Individuals with Disabilities Special Emphasis Program Manager.

\*ORMDI's [Diversity@Work Newsletter](#) is part of VA's ongoing effort to increase awareness of diversity and to promote a flexible and inclusive work environment.

# Don't Let Flu Spook You Out! Time to Get Your Flu Vaccine!

## Where Can I Get My Flu Shot?

- **Employee Health** (T122) from 7 – 9AM
- **Inpatient & Clinical Areas** from a vaccinator
- **Behavioral Health:** from Parris Morrow
- **Off-Tours:** Emergency Dept. from 7PM - 7AM
- **CBOCs:** At flu clinics or from clinical vaccinators
- **Travel Flu Clinic** (Call Mic Gillis ext. 7190 - must have minimum of 5 staff to be vaccinated)
- **In the community at a local pharmacy** (get a copy of your vaccine documentation!)
- **Need egg-free or a nasal spray options?** Check [www.vaccines.gov/find-vaccines](http://www.vaccines.gov/find-vaccines)

All VHA Staff are required to submit their **10-9050 form** by **November 30<sup>th</sup>**

1. **All:** Select which type of VA personnel you are
2. Select one of the three options:
  - Received vaccination
  - OR
  - Medical exemption, with physician information & signature, and supervisor signature
  - OR
  - Religious exemption, with supervisor signature
3. All - sign and date the form
4. Submit form to [BOIEOHVaccines@va.gov](mailto:BOIEOHVaccines@va.gov)

**HEALTH CARE PERSONNEL INFLUENZA VACCINATION FORM**

I am a VA:  Employee  Volunteer  Other (ex. Trainee, Resident, Intern, Fee Basis, or Re Please indicate: \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK ONE STATEMENT BELOW AND COMPLETE AND SIGN THE LAST SECTION OF THIS FORM FOR SUBMISSION TO EMPLOYEE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

I received the seasonal influenza vaccine this flu season (required documentation is attached.)

I have been granted a medical exemption from receiving the seasonal influenza vaccine this season. I understand that by declining to receive the vaccine as defined by CDC. The reasons for contraindication must be recognized contraindications and precautions by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/aboutvacc.htm>. This has been discussed and acknowledged by my physician. I understand that by declining to receive the vaccine by November 30 or within two weeks of employment, I must wear a face mask according to requirements and guidelines within VHA Directive 11 Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Program for VHA Healthcare Personnel.

Printed Physician Name and Address \_\_\_\_\_

Physician Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ National Provider Identification Number \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Supervisor Email \_\_\_\_\_

I notified my immediate supervisor in writing that I have a deeply held religious belief that prevents me from receiving the seasonal influenza vaccine this influenza season. I understand that by declining to receive the vaccine November 30 or within two weeks of beginning employment, I must wear a face mask according to requirements and guidelines within VHA Directive 1192.01, Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Program for VHA Healthcare Personnel.

Supervisor Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Supervisor Email \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and fully understand the information on this form and have been given the opportunity to have it answered. I understand that violation of the directive may result in disciplinary action up to and including removal from federal service.

Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_ Last 4 SSN: \_\_\_\_\_ Dept./Serv: \_\_\_\_\_

Employee Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Employees and volunteers provide this form to the VHA facility Employee Occupational Health Office. Health Trainees provide this form to the Designated Education Officer. Secure electronic submission is permitted.

VHA Form 10-9050  
AUG 2010

If you were vaccinated on campus and submitted your 10-9050 form, you are all done.

Please submit your 10-9050 form and proof of vaccination to [BOIEOHVaccines@va.gov](mailto:BOIEOHVaccines@va.gov). One person's documents per attachment and include FIRST & LAST name on the attachment.

# Congratulations Veterans Experience Office (VEO)!



**Boise VA's VEO was nominated in the top quintile as 1 of 13 finalists for the Excellence in Patient Experience Award within VA.**

This nomination comes from our SHEP PCMH (Outpatient) Overall Provider Rating, SHEP Inpatient Overall Rating, V-Signals Trust, and All Employee Survey Best Place to Work VA data. VEO wanted to share our thanks to everyone in the medical center for your incredible work to improve our Veterans' experiences. *Here's our write-up we shared with VACO Patient Experience:*

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**At the Boise VA Health Care System, we focus on improving the Patient and Employee Experience by...**

really addressing all seven domains of the Patient Experience Framework. In touching on the seven aspects individually, the cultural picture that we paint at the Boise VAMC will come into focus.

Let's start with Boise VAMC **Leadership** and **Culture**. You would be hard pressed to find a more supportive leadership team, as they have created a safe, supportive, and empowered culture that allows staff to speak up when needed without the worry of reprisal. Boise leadership is visible, conducting bi-weekly All Employee Town Halls, which include robust discussion. Boise VAMC Leadership is committed to servant



# FREE TO ATTEND!

## 2022 VETERANS LEGAL CLINICS

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16 August  
18 October  
15 November

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Legal clinics are free & open to veterans and spouses.

Clinics are held from 2PM to 4PM at the Boise VA Medical Center, Bldg. 54. Located at 500 W. Fort Street, Boise, Idaho 83702.

Additional phone appointments with attorneys are available on a case-by-case basis.

Please contact Amanda Pentland, LCSW at (208) 422-1000 ext. 7099 for additional information.



**VA**

Boise VA  
Medical Center

# 247<sup>th</sup> MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BALL

Sponsored by the  
Marine Corps League

**NOVEMBER 5, 2022**

BUT BEING A  
**Boise Centre**  
MARINE  
850 W Front St  
NEVER ENDS  
**Boise, Idaho**



or contact

**Dan Thornton at [e7t@aol.com](mailto:e7t@aol.com)**

**(in the subject line please put, MCL Ball Info)**



# YOU CAN BE THE FACE OF CHANGE



**The 2022 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) has kicked off.** The CFC is our annual opportunity to give to charities through the workplace. Please open the attached “How to Give” flyer for more information on ways to give.

## [Why does the CFC matter?](#)

Through the CFC, you can give to vetted charities via payroll deduction. Giving a little each pay period turns into a significant gift at the end of the year, and the collective impact of all of our gifts over the past 60 years is huge: more than \$8.6 billion. Just last year, the CFC raised \$78 million to help people and communities in need. Each year, you make that happen!

**Ready to give?** Then, [complete or renew your pledge today](#) and get us off to a strong start.

**New to the CFC?** There’s a first time for everything! Please consider joining us this year. I am available to answer any questions you might have.

When you complete your pledge, download your [“I Gave” badge](#) to use in your email signature or on social media.

Thank you for your generosity and willingness to change the world through the CFC.

For more information on the local CFC efforts, contact Briana Budell or Heather Gula.

# HOW TO GIVE



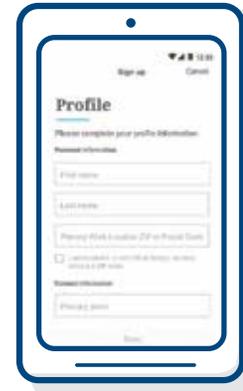
**OUR  
FAVORITE  
WAY TO  
GIVE!**

## ONLINE

- 1) Visit [GiveCFC.org](https://GiveCFC.org) and click DONATE.
- 2) Create an account or log in to your existing account.
- 3) Complete or update your profile:
  - a. Enter the ZIP code of your office  
to access the correct list of units/offices.  
Our office ZIP code is: 83702
  - b. Enter your CFC unit code to automatically populate  
the Department/Agency/Office selections.  
Our CFC unit code is: H61MNF
- 4) Search for the charities you want to support.
- 5) Make your pledge by selecting your designated charities and allocating funds or volunteer hours.



## CFC GIVING MOBILE APP



### Download the App

The CFC Giving Mobile App is available for iPhone and Android devices by searching "CFC Giving" in the app store.



### Sign in or create an account

**Returning donors:** Use the same login as your CFC online pledge portal account.  
**New donors:** Create an account, verify it, and set up your profile.



### Search for charities

If you are attending a campaign event, you can see the list of charities participating in your event. Or you can generate your own list of CFC charities and their descriptions by entering search criteria: charity name, CFC Code, EIN, or keyword.



### Give

Tap each charity you would like to support and enter your pledge amounts and volunteer hours.



### Complete your donation

Update or add a funding source (payroll deduction, bank account, or credit/debit card).

## PAPER PLEDGE FORM



### Prefer using a good old pen and paper?

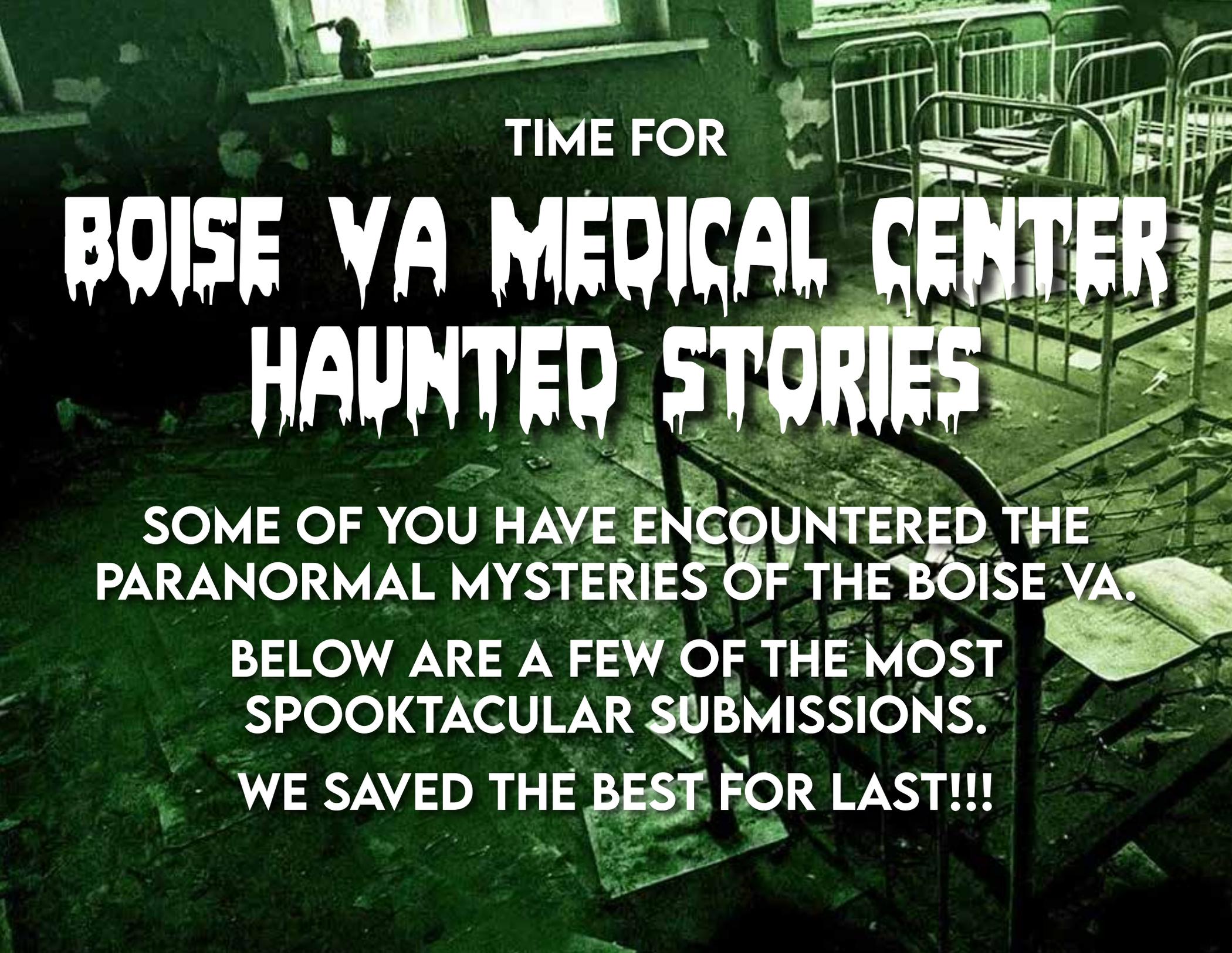
You can still complete a paper pledge form. Download the paper form from [GiveCFC.org](https://GiveCFC.org) and fill it out using the instructions on the second page. Submit it to your Keyworker.

# EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH **SEPTEMBER**



**Paul Leveto**

Lt. Leveto is a key member of the Disruptive Behavior Committee. In that role, he has been asked to interact with multiple Veterans who exhibit very challenging behaviors. Lt. Leveto approaches each situation with the utmost integrity and makes efforts to promote the Veteran's dignity while advocating for staff, visitors and veterans' safety. He is committed to each Veteran, regardless of their behaviors, receiving safe and effective healthcare. He has demonstrated respect, professionalism and incredible care throughout several complex situations since joining the DBC last year. More recently, Lt. Leveto has been asked to provide an Officer Escort for a challenging Veteran at each visit and worked with this writer, Chief Caffey and many staff on the Gold Team to ensure the Veteran is receiving the care he is eligible for while ensuring staff feel safe at work each day. I believe he has gone above and beyond in his role and he should be recognized. We appreciate all of our VA Police Officers and Lt. Leveto is a prime example of the devoted services they all provide.

The background image is a dark, grainy photograph of an abandoned hospital room. Several metal hospital beds are visible, some with papers or blankets on them. A window is in the upper left, and the walls appear peeling and damaged. The overall atmosphere is eerie and desolate.

TIME FOR

# BOISE VA MEDICAL CENTER HAUNTED STORIES

SOME OF YOU HAVE ENCOUNTERED THE  
PARANORMAL MYSTERIES OF THE BOISE VA.

BELOW ARE A FEW OF THE MOST  
SPOOKTACULAR SUBMISSIONS.

WE SAVED THE BEST FOR LAST!!!



## BREATHING DOWN MY NECK

In the spring of 2022 I was working in Building 33 on the 3rd floor. My coworkers were always leery about the basement and we would often joke about what or who lived down there. One day as I was leaving from work I was waiting for the elevator and I heard a very audible sigh and a breath on the back of my neck. I joked about it being Friday and we were going home....except when I turned around there was no one there, in fact there was no one in the hall on the entire 3rd floor.

# THE SHADOWY FIGURE

I'm relatively new to the VA, having just onboarded at the end of March. I work in the file room, which is currently on the top floor of Building 33 as the basement location is currently being renovated. I've heard this used to be a school, and before that, a tuberculosis hospital. Until recently, I was afforded 15 hours of overtime a week, because of our backlog, so I would spend many an afternoon and evening after work, trying to play catch-up. I'd always heard strange noises behind the wall, which I've determined to be a fireplace still connected to an existing chimney. But one particular incident caused me concern. I was sitting at my desk, typing on the keyboard, when I kept seeing movement out of the corner of my left eye. I'd turn my head, and not see anything through the window in the door. I even went out into the hallway to see if I could debunk what I thought I was witnessing. There was nothing out of the ordinary. But I kept seeing a short shadow poking its head up and down. I just dismissed it. The next day, as my coworker was sitting at his desk, I realized I could see his reflection from the window out of the corner of my eye. He sits behind me. That's when I realized this shadowy figure was moving around behind my back, not 10 feet away! I make sure to keep my door open from now on.

I've heard from another employee who's worked here long than I, that someone once heard a child whistling what sounded like a nursery rhyme on the second floor. I haven't experienced anything like that on the third floor. And this past summer, I swear I saw someone carrying a pile of sheets walk by my desk. I couldn't see its torso, as it was obscured by the bundle of sheets, but I could see their legs move as they walked by. I have yet to witness it again.

More recently, I was here on Columbus Day, working holiday hours, I kept hearing the floor creaking as if someone was walking on it out in the hallway. I know I was the only one in the building, as I did a walk around, and the parking lot was empty. The wooden stairs kept creaking too, as if somebody was walking up them.

I've heard from maintenance and custodial that the basement of Building 33 was used as a morgue. I really don't get any creepy vibes down there, so I think it may be false. I'm more afraid of walking into a spider web than an apparition down there! And this past week, the window in the door at the top of the stairs mysteriously shattered, with no one around, as if someone forcefully hit it!

I can't wait to move back down into our basement location.

# OXYGEN FROM BEYOND

It was a dark, stormy day in late October at the Boise VA Medical Center. I was on duty as RNOD for the day. I had a veteran going home however he needed an oxygen tank to go home with. The oxygen tanks are stored in a room in the basement of building 27, and I have been down there many times before. As I was taking the stairs down to the basement I thought I heard a noise but brushed it off as my imagination. Once I got to the basement some of the lights which were normally on were off. I had to take out my phone and use it as a flash light to get to the room where the oxygen tanks were stored. I secured the oxygen tank and started for the tunnel between buildings 24 and 67. As I entered the tunnel, I heard what sounded like scraping on the floor of someone using a walker behind me. I stopped and looked back, checking to make sure someone did not get lost, however nothing was behind me but a dark hallway. Since I did not see anything I proceeded to building 67, when I heard the scraping on the floor of someone using a walker behind me, again! And it was closer. I felt a cold breeze go by me. I did not look back and walked as fast as could to the elevator in building 67. I have been down through this area since and never have had that experience again.

# WOMAN IN THE WHEELCHAIR

It was a calm warm summer night about 3 in the morning; I had already conducted a foot patrol through every hospital ward, completed building checks to ensure the facilities were secure, and had patrolled VA property in our marked patrol vehicle earlier in the shift. I left the Police Service office to conduct one final foot patrol for the shift. Instead of walking through the wards first I decided to walk through building #88. I entered from the west side double doors coming from building #121. I walked through the hallway I turned left on the long northbound hallway towards the admitting and emergency room in building #85. As I walked down the hallway, passing the last hallway on the left before exiting the building, I saw out of my peripheral vision what appeared to be a woman sitting in a wheelchair facing away from me wearing a white 1800's style blouse, with an 1800's style bun hairdo slowly turn around and watch me pass the hallway. I could not quite make out the face as I stopped dead in my stride to process what I had seen. I knew there were a few wheelchairs with headrests placed at the end of the hall next to the rehabilitation gym.

I had seen those empty wheelchairs sitting there many times in the exact same hallway, but this was different. I immediately turned around drew my flashlight and went into the hallway to confirm what I had just seen, but the wheelchairs were empty, and all the doors were still locked in that area. Whoever or whatever it was had disappeared.

I knew in an instant what I had seen as I left the area. I walked into the emergency room admitting area and began to explain to the AOD for the shift, what I had just seen. She giggled and said, "you finally saw one huh?". The AOD then told me about the footsteps that would follow her down in the ground level area where she used to work. I always wondered why the metal plates on the ground floor hallway, where the original building bricks were painted between building #27 and #67, always sounded like someone was walking behind me. Or maybe it was the reason my hair always stood up and the hallway got cold when I walked through that ground level hallway at night...



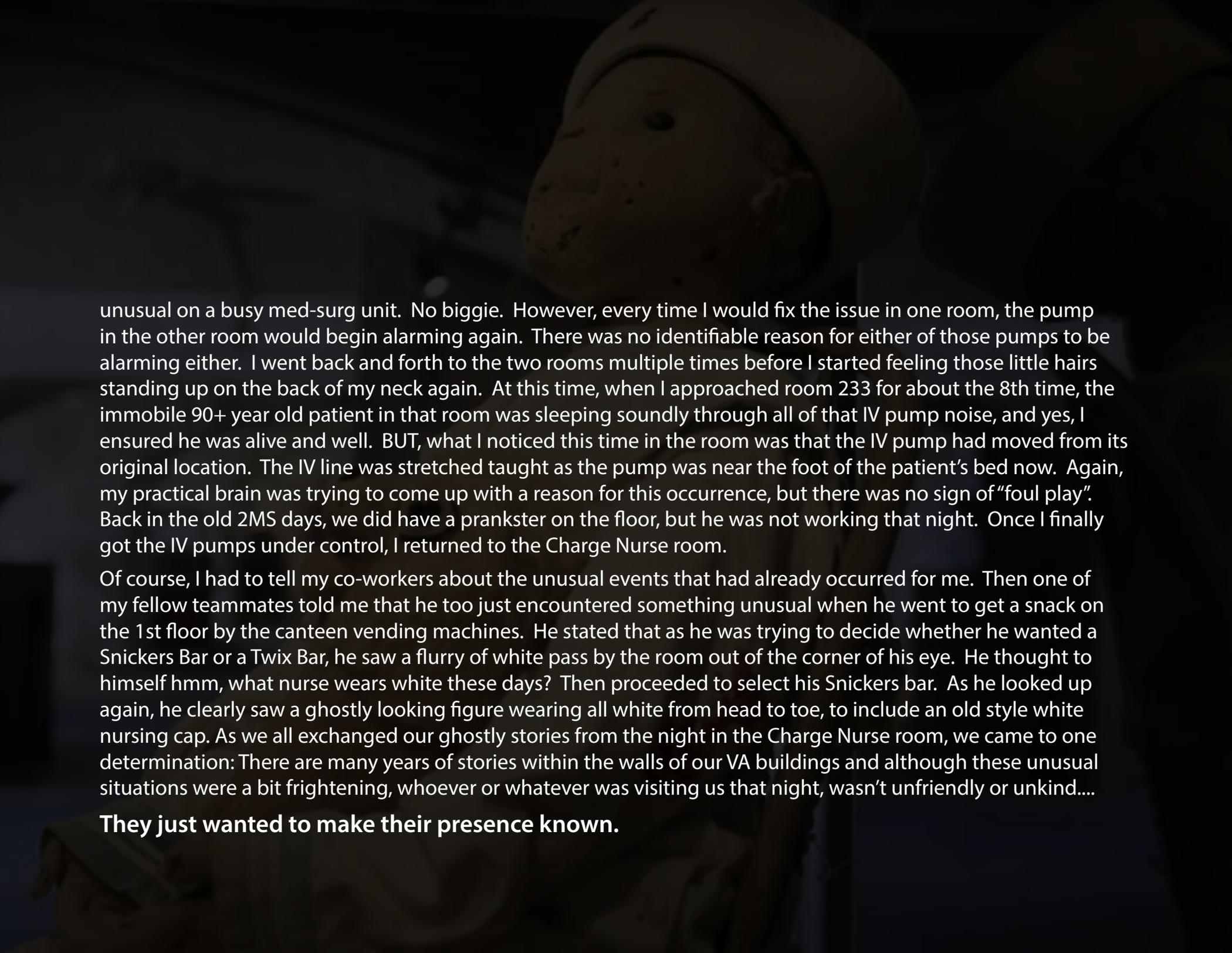
# GHOSTLY ASSISTANT

One dark and creepy night, many years ago on 2MS, there was an unusual feeling in the air. You know, the kind of night shift where everyone is on edge, even the patients. I walked on the unit and very quickly wished I could just turn around and leave. I knew this was going to be a night to remember. Nurses were frazzled and patients were yelling. The tiny hairs stood up on the back of my neck. I recall asking the unit secretary, "Is there a full moon tonight?" Instead of looking at me like I was crazy, his laugh rumbled so loudly through the hallway. As if to say, "You have no idea..." That's when it occurred to me, perhaps it is time to put in my request for day shift. There was many a night where we'd see someone standing in a window of one of those old buildings as we gazed to the top of "the hill". We would always rationalize those instances by telling ourselves, "Oh...that is just housekeeping" or "Maybe someone is just working late". This night in particular was even creepier than usual.

The chaos began to simmer down around midnight and the patients on the unit became eerily quiet. It all began around 1 AM in room 241. I was called into the room by the patient. As I arrived to his room, I left my WOW (workstation on wheels) parked in the hallway outside of the room and slightly around the corner so as to not obstruct the doorway. As I approached the patient's bedside, he informed me that he really needed more pain medication. As I pivoted around to exit the room for pain meds, I noticed my WOW started moving by itself around the corner and into my patient's room right where I was standing. I watched it move by itself with my own eyes! The patient stated, "That is the creepiest thing I have ever seen." Meanwhile I naturally ran out of the room to try to catch the person who was playing an awful prank on me only to find out there was nobody nearby. Just me and my patient in 241. Of course, I told the patient there was nothing to be worried about, but was there? Believe it or not, that was just the beginning of my creepy night.

As the dreadful 3AM hour approached, I was in the Charge Nurse room at the desk diligently completing my documentation, when the IV pump in room 233 started beeping obnoxiously. As I approached room 233 to determine what the issue was with the pump, the IV pump in room 232 started frantically alarming at the same time. This isn't very

Continued next page....



unusual on a busy med-surg unit. No biggie. However, every time I would fix the issue in one room, the pump in the other room would begin alarming again. There was no identifiable reason for either of those pumps to be alarming either. I went back and forth to the two rooms multiple times before I started feeling those little hairs standing up on the back of my neck again. At this time, when I approached room 233 for about the 8th time, the immobile 90+ year old patient in that room was sleeping soundly through all of that IV pump noise, and yes, I ensured he was alive and well. BUT, what I noticed this time in the room was that the IV pump had moved from its original location. The IV line was stretched taught as the pump was near the foot of the patient's bed now. Again, my practical brain was trying to come up with a reason for this occurrence, but there was no sign of "foul play". Back in the old 2MS days, we did have a prankster on the floor, but he was not working that night. Once I finally got the IV pumps under control, I returned to the Charge Nurse room.

Of course, I had to tell my co-workers about the unusual events that had already occurred for me. Then one of my fellow teammates told me that he too just encountered something unusual when he went to get a snack on the 1st floor by the canteen vending machines. He stated that as he was trying to decide whether he wanted a Snickers Bar or a Twix Bar, he saw a flurry of white pass by the room out of the corner of his eye. He thought to himself hmm, what nurse wears white these days? Then proceeded to select his Snickers bar. As he looked up again, he clearly saw a ghostly looking figure wearing all white from head to toe, to include an old style white nursing cap. As we all exchanged our ghostly stories from the night in the Charge Nurse room, we came to one determination: There are many years of stories within the walls of our VA buildings and although these unusual situations were a bit frightening, whoever or whatever was visiting us that night, wasn't unfriendly or unkind....

**They just wanted to make their presence known.**